



# East Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plant Release: Description & Timeline

Environmental Review Commission  
February 17, 2014

# Overview

- What happened?
- Reporting requirements
- Detailed timeline of events

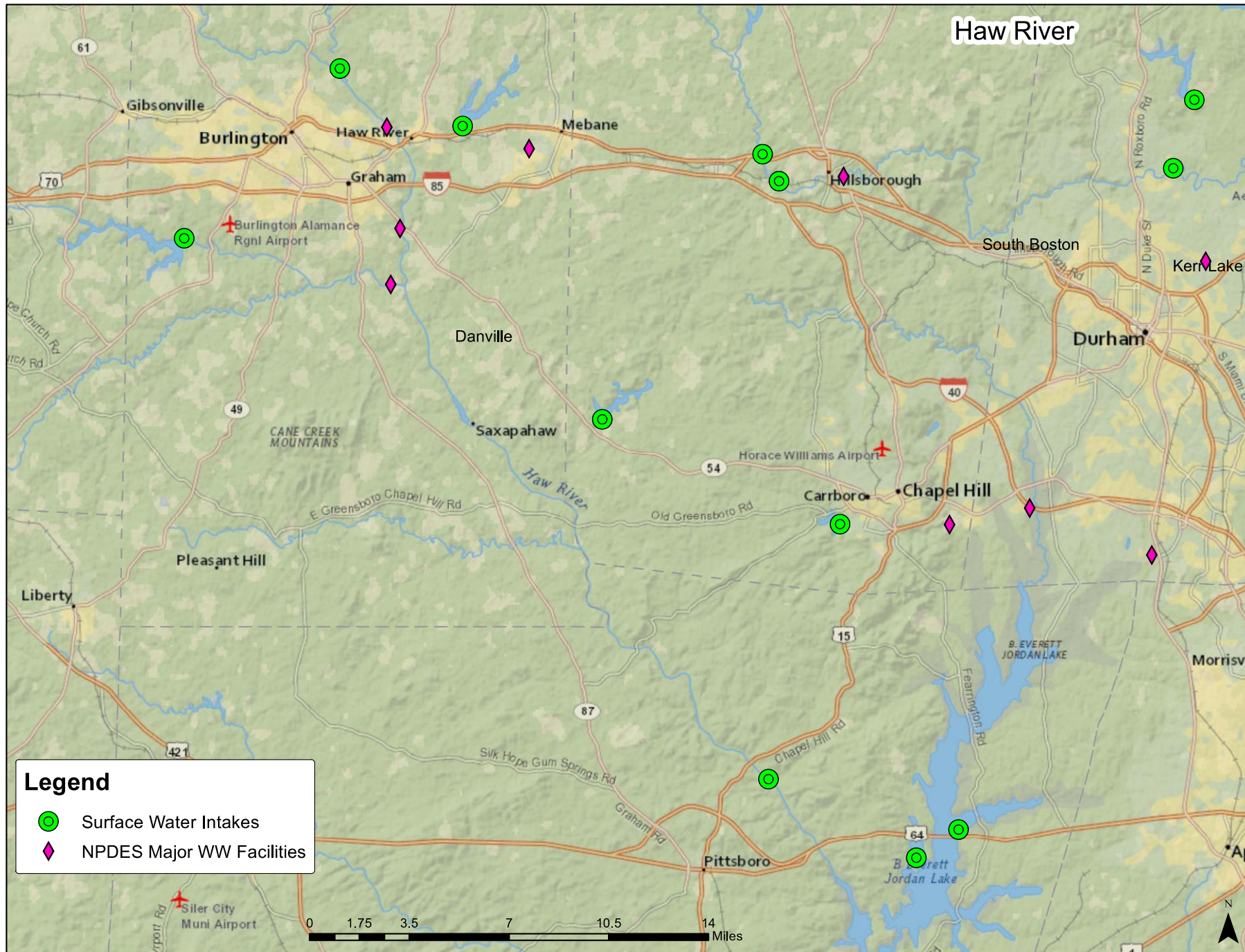
# Haw River Release – What Happened?

- At 6:20 pm Jan 27 a 30” force main at E. Burlington WWTP failed
- The force main ran uphill to the treatment plant
- Untreated wastewater backed up in the force main and overflowed from four manhole covers
- Manholes were located 500 feet from the Haw River
- Covers remained in place so only wastewater overflowed, no solids or trash
- Overflowing wastewater ran into the Haw River

# Haw River Spill – What Happened?

- Extreme cold weather hindered repairs
  - Governor declared a State of Emergency on Jan 28
- Bypass pumps and pipes were put into service to reduce, but not completely eliminate, the spill of wastewater
- Spill was eliminated at 3:40 pm on Jan 29
- No negative impacts to the River were noted
  - No fish kills
  - No impact to public drinking water supplies
- Total release of approximately 3.5 million gallons
- Flow of Haw River during the spill: 178 to 194 million gallons per day

# Haw River





















# Reporting Requirements for Sewage Spill

- Permit Requirements
  - Contained in discharge permit
  - Notify Division (DWR) within 24 hours of spill
- Statutory requirements
  - Contained in 143-215.1C
  - Owner/operator must issue press release within 48 hours of release to Waters of the State



# Haw River Release – Detailed Timeline

- Jan 27–6:20 pm: Failure of force main
- Jan 27-7:00 pm: Burlington notifies DWR
- Jan 27-9:00 pm: DENR notifies Pittsboro
- Jan 27-11:00 pm: 8 inch bypass pumps & pipes deployed
- Overflow substantially reduced, but not eliminated
- Jan 28: Governor declares State of Emergency in NC
- Jan 28-2:30 pm: 16 inch bypass pump & piping onsite
- Jan 29-2:25 pm: Bypass repairs completed
- Jan 29-3:40 pm: Overflow eliminated
- Jan 30: Repairs inspected by DWR personnel
- Jan 30-5:37 pm: Burlington issues press release of spill
- Feb 3: NC DENR issues Notice of Violation



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# Why the delay in the press release?

- Judgment call by DWR onsite supervisor
- Predicated on the following factors:
  - Spill had already been eliminated
  - Allowed Burlington extra time to calculate the quantity of spill so two releases would not need to be issued
  - A single comprehensive press release would better inform the public
  - No significant environmental impacts
  - No recreation in river (occurred in the winter)
  - No impacts to public drinking water supplies



# Contact Information

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